Circular

Farmington Conn Dec 12th 1842

Dear Friend

Shall the Anti Slavery influence of this County remain divided? - or will those who feel for the Slave, drop Minor differences and unite on a common platform for his deliverance and the salvation of the Country?

The Subject of a Union of Abolitionists has been much on my mind for two or three years past. A deep feeling of its importance impels me, tho' occupying a humble place in the ranks of Abolitionists, to make a few suggestions to those who are truly leaders in the Cause, why a Union should take place.

1st The unhappy divisions of Abolitionists, have no doubt proved a great hindrance to the progress of the Cause of freedom

2 There is Anti Slavery talent, zeal and influence enough in our County, if united and properly directed, under God's blessing, to effect a speedy overthrow of Slavery.

3 The great Vital and essential principle of Abolition are held in Common by all abolitionists —

MSS A 92.17.140

152

4th A Union cannot be effected except by leaving out every thing, whether matter of opinion or modes of action, not necessarily, directly and plainly connected with and belonging to, the subject of Slavery.

5th All who should unite on a common platform, would of course be at full liberty elsewhere, either individually or in whatever way they might otherwise be associated, to carry out their peculiar views and modes of action.

6 Such a Union is practicable — and such Unions on this and other objects, have often been sustained and crowned with God's blessing.

7 The confidence of the Community, will not in all probability be conceded to Abolitionists, until they cease to differ amongst themselves and settle down, on some plain, direct, rational and truly Christian principles of action.

8 The question whether Slavery shall increase or decrease in extent and influence in this Country must soon be decided.

9 Abolitionists are called upon to Unite,

by their love of Country, by the sufferings of the oppressed, and by the principles of Christianity.

I would not presume to propose any principles of Union. The most I would suggest is that a meeting for Conference be held at an early day, by a moderate number of individuals from different parts of the Country and representing the different views of Abolitionists, to consult calmly and dispassionately on the subject, and that no publicity be given to it in any [illegible] fanatic quarter should such

This Communication is made solely on my own responsibility and without Consultation with any one. Copies of it will be addressed to but six individuals viz Jonesboro, Joshua Leavitt, L Tappan, Gerit Smith & Theodore Weld.

Should the proposition be deemed worthy of Consideration, by them or the greater number of them, it could be submitted to others.

Yours very truly

Theo D Weld

Wm L Garrison

Boston

Paid

PAID

HARTFORD
DEC 14
Ct.

To William L Garrison

Boston

Mass

Hartford Dec. 12. 1842

Wm L. Garrison,

MS A 92.17.140